

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/619,509
Attorney Docket Q76172
August 2, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent WO 02/072371 A1. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the European Patent in view of Hildebrand et al. 4,852,638.

Claims 1-5 inclusive have been amended and Claims 6 and 7 cancelled. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 7 therein and Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to eliminate use of the term “aforesaid”.

Claims 5, 8 and 9 were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter in the last Office Action is rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of base Claim 7 and Claim 9 depends from Claim 8. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 9 are now believed to be in proper form for allowance.

Reconsideration of Claims 1-4 inclusive is requested in view of the amendment of Claim 1 to more specifically identify the “perturbation means” previously called for in Claim 1. Claim 1 as amended is specific to an air distribution device for motor vehicles having a body with an inlet duct for a flow of air and three outlet ducts for the outflow of the air. A single moveable member for perturbation of the flow of air coming from the inlet duct has three different

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operating positions which cause deviation of the flow of air selectively into the first second or third outlet duct due to the Coanda effect.

None of the prior references cited in the last Office Action show basic concept of directing a flow of air to any one of three difference outlet ducts by a single moveable flow perturbation member having three different operative positions for causing the deviation. In the European reference WO 02/072371 a single control member controls many parallel sections each of which comprises an inlet duct which is divided into two outlet ducts. No where in this reference is there any suggestion of an inlet duct which divides into three outlet ducts with a single control member having three operative positions each corresponding to the deviation of the flow into a different one of the three outlet ducts. In view of the foregoing distinctions it is submitted that Claims 1- 4 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of the teachings of the European reference. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

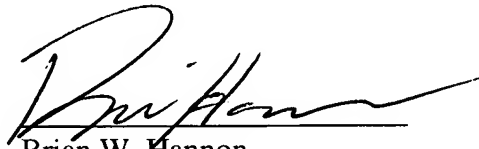
If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Since the due date for responding fell on a Sunday, the submission of this response on Monday, August 2, 2004 is still considered timely filed.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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